



Wilmot's Early Red.

XXV.

WILMOT'S EARLY RED GOOSEBERRY.

The custom, which has long been adopted in some counties, particularly *Lancashire*, of giving premiums for new varieties of the Gooseberry, has tended to bring forward an innumerable progeny; from which it is no easy task to select a few which may be recommended as possessing superior merit. The principle of rewarding according to the size and weight of an individual berry appears to be erroneous, as no positive criterion is thereby afforded, even of the average size; and those qualities which constitute the real value of the fruit, are wholly unattended to: indeed it is generally admitted, that very few of the large varieties of the Gooseberry are excellent in point of flavour, and that the *Old Red Champagne* and the *Green Walnut* are still unrivalled.

The variety here delineated was communicated by the ingenious cultivator, whose name it bears*: it was selected by the Fruit Committee of the HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, as the best red berry among many which were presented to them in 1814. The following account has been transmitted by Mr. WILMOT to the author:—

“ The Gooseberry which I have called my *Early Red* was raised about nine years since, and is now cultivated by me to a far greater

* Mr. JOHN WILMOT, of Isleworth.